

benefits to children of Vietnam veterans who suffer from spina bifida, a serious neural tube birth defect that requires life-long care—provided, of course, the children were conceived after the veterans began their service in Vietnam.

The National Academy of Sciences released a report in March of this year, citing new evidence supporting the link between exposure to agent orange and the occurrence of spina bifida in children of veterans who served in Vietnam. This report, Mr. President, warrants our action.

Both the President and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown, have asked that spina bifida in veterans' offspring be considered service connected. However, the VA currently does not have the authority to extend the health care and other related benefits to these children that they so greatly need. This bill will grant the VA the necessary authority to finally start providing needed care to these children who are suffering.

Mr. President, these are children whose misery stems from physical damage caused to one of their parents who was fighting for this country in Vietnam. We should do no less than provide them with the care and treatment they need. We must not make some of the children of our Vietnam veterans the last victims of the Vietnam war. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S.J. Res. 58. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to granting power to the States to propose constitutional amendments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATE-INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
JOINT RESOLUTION

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to talk about first principles, about fundamental truths, about a battle that helped give birth to a nation. The amendment I have sent to the desk represents an effort to restore the federal system conceived by the Framers over two centuries ago by giving the States the capacity to initiate constitutional reforms.

In considering my remarks earlier this morning, I was reminded of a trip my family and I made several years ago when I was Governor of the State of Missouri. In 1989, we were extended an opportunity to visit the site where the Continental Army, led by Gen. Aemas Ward, fought to seize Bunker Hill on the Charlestown peninsula.

It was a moving experience. One cannot help but recall the monument, dedicated by Daniel Webster, that stands as a tribute to the lives that were lost. I recommend the trip to both Members and the viewing audience alike.

I must confess, however, that the expansive field you will find fails to fully capture the raw carnage that visited Bunker Hill in June of 1775. Close to

2,000 lives were lost in less than 2 hours. And, while General Howe's regulars were masters of the peninsula at the end of the day, the casualties they sustained were more than twice that of the American militia.

Historians, Mr. President, have come to record Bunker Hill as a bloody if indecisive contest, an early salvo in a conflict which Dr. Jonathan Rossie has characterized as a "glorious cause." Glorious, if warfare can be called that, because the issue that animated the colonists that day was freedom, for themselves and generations yet to come; God, courage, and posterity were their invisible allies.

And as I reflect on those events, I cannot help but wonder what has become of the first principles for which our forefathers fought? What has become of the fundamental truths that compelled those great patriots up that hill, bayonets flashing, voices shouting "push on, push on."

For that battle outside of Boston helped give birth to a nation, a constitutional republic that was the first of its kind. A system where, as Madison suggested in "Federalist" No. 46, "the federal and state governments are in fact but different agents of the people, constituted with different powers, and designed for different purposes."

Unfortunately, Mr. President, Madison's vision is being lost. Judicial activism, Federal intervention, and past constitutional reforms have led to a gradual erosion of State power. In particular, the passage of the 16th and 17th amendments have had a disastrous effect on the capacity of the States to check Federal expansion. The former, establishing the income tax, gave the central government a virtually unlimited spending power, while the latter, providing for the direct election of Senators, worked to undermine the Senate's contemplated role as the protector of State autonomy.

One of the single, greatest challenges we face as a country and as a Congress, is addressing the constitutional imbalance that has arisen from the convergence of these trends. Allowing the States to initiate amendments on issues ranging from a balanced budget to congressional term limits would do just that.

The operation of the proposed amendment is as simple as its intent is clear. Whenever two-thirds of the States propose an amendment, in identical terms, it is submitted to the Congress for review. If two-thirds of both Houses fail to disapprove the amendment during the session in which it is received, the proposal is then forwarded to the States for ratification by three-fourths of the legislatures thereof.

If adopted, the proposed amendment would have tremendous value on several different fronts. First, it would force the cold corridors of power on the Potomac to respond to the will of the people—no more mandates, no more deficits, no more careerism in the Congress. Similarly, the amendment would

allow the States to once again share the constitutional agenda of the Nation. And finally, it would provide a potential for addressing the problems of federalism in a context which could conceivably augment State power.

In Gregory versus Ashcroft, Justice O'Connor opined that "in the tension between Federal and State power lies the promise of liberty." And so it does. I believe reconstituting the federal system of which Madison wrote must become conservatives' new glorious cause. This amendment is a measured, moderate step toward achieving that end. For these reasons, Mr. President, I beg its adoption.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 334

At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to encourage States to enact a Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, to provide standards and protection for the conduct of internal police investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to provide off-budget treatment for the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to permit duty free treatment for certain structures, parts, and components used in the Gemini Telescope Project.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. FAIRCLOTH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the first manned flight of Orville and Wilbur Wright in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend the National Environmental Education Act to extend the programs under the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1885

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] and the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] were added as cosponsors of S. 1885, a bill to limit the liability of certain nonprofit organizations that are providers of prosthetic devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1938

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1938, a bill to enact the model Good Samaritan Act Food Donation Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1951

At the request of Mr. FORD, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1951, a bill to ensure the competitiveness of the United States textile and apparel industry.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1963, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 1987

At the request of Mr. FAIRCLOTH, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1987, a bill to amend titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of social security and medicare trust funds for certain expenditures relating to union representatives at the Social Security Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 57

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 57, a joint resolution requiring the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation to use dynamic economic modeling in addition to static economic modeling in the preparation of budgetary estimates of proposed changes in Federal revenue law.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 64

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 64, a concurrent resolution to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

BAUCUS (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 5141

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. REID) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 3675) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3 . CALCULATION OF FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY APPORTIONMENTS AND ALLOCATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), for fiscal year 1997, the Secretary of Transportation shall determine the Federal-aid highway apportionments and allocations to a State without regard to the approximately \$1,596,000,000 credit to the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) of estimated taxes paid by States that was made by the Secretary of the Treasury for fiscal year 1995 in correction of an accounting error made in fiscal year 1994.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR EFFECTS IN 1996.—The Secretary of Transportation shall, for each State—

(1) determine whether the State would have been apportioned and allocated an increased or decreased amount for Federal-aid highways for fiscal year 1996 if the accounting error referred to in subsection (a) had not been made (which determination shall take into account the effects of section 1003(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 1002-240; 105 Stat. 1921)); and

(2) after apportionments and allocations are determined in accordance with subsection (a)—

(A) adjust the amount apportioned and allocated to the State for Federal-aid highways for fiscal year 1997 by the amount of the increase or decrease; and

(B) adjust accordingly the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways distributed to the State under this Act.

(c) NO EFFECT ON 1996 DISTRIBUTIONS.—Nothing in this section shall affect any apportionment, allocation, or distribution of obligation limitation, or reduction thereof, to a State for Federal-aid highways for fiscal year 1996.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on September 30, 1996.

WELLSTONE AMENDMENT NO. 5142

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for Mr. WELLSTONE) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3675, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 4 . TRANSFER OF FUNDS AMONG MINNESOTA HIGHWAY PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Such portions of the amounts appropriated for the Minnesota highway projects described in subsection (b) that have not been obligated as of December 31, 1996, may, at the option of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, be made available to carry out the 34th Street Corridor Project in Moorhead, Minnesota, authorized by section 149(a)(5)(A)(iii) of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-17; 101 Stat. 181) (as amended by section 340(a) of the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-59; 109 Stat. 607)).

(b) PROJECTS.—The Minnesota highway projects described in this subsection are—

(1) the project for Saint Louis County authorized by section 149(a)(76) of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-17; 101 Stat. 192); and

(2) the project for Nicollet County authorized by item 159 of section 1107(b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 105 Stat. 2056).

WYDEN (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 5143

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for Mr. WYDEN, for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3675, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following new section:

SEC. . TRAIN WHISTLE REQUIREMENTS.

No funds shall be made available to implement the regulations issued under section 20153(b) of title 49, United States Code, requiring audible warnings to be sounded by a locomotive horn at highway-rail grade crossings, unless—

(1) in implementing the regulations or providing an exception to the regulations under section 20153(c) of such title, the Secretary of Transportation takes into account, among other criteria—

(A) the interests of the communities that have in effect restrictions on the sounding of a locomotive horn at highway-rail grade crossings as of July 30, 1996; and

(B) the past safety record at each grade crossing involved; and

(2) whenever the Secretary determines that supplementary safety measures (as that term is defined in section 20153(a) of title 49, United States Code) are necessary to provide an exception referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary—

(A) having considered the extent to which local communities have established public awareness initiatives and highway-rail crossing traffic law enrollment programs allows for a period of not to exceed 3 years, beginning on the date of that determination, for the installation of those measures; and

(B) works in partnership with affected communities to provide technical assistance and to develop a reasonable schedule for the installation of those measures.

LAUTENBERG AMENDMENTS NOS.
5144–5145

Mr. LAUTENBERG proposed two amendments to the bill, H.R. 3675, supra; as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 5144

On page 19, strike lines 10 through 12 and insert "For the cost of direct loans, \$8,000,000, as authorized by 23 United States Code 108."

AMENDMENT NO. 5145

On page 60, line 20, strike "103-311" and insert "103-331".

COHEN (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 5146

Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. GREGG) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 3675, supra; as follows:

Insert at the appropriate place:
"No funds appropriated under this act shall be used to levy penalties prior to September 1, 1997 on the States of Maine or New Hampshire based on non-compliance with federal vehicle weight limitations".

GRAMM (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 5147

Mr. GRAMM (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. COATS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. HELMS) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 5141